I beg further to announce that Mr. S. Sankara Pillai, B. A., Acting Dewan Peishkar, Padmanabhapuram, appointed an official member of the Council, takes his seat to-day.

## THE LAND ACQUISITION REGULATION AMENDMENT BILL.

Mr. Sankara Pillai.—I beg permission to introduce a Bill to amend the Land Acquisition Regulation, III of 1067. A Section has to be added for the purpose of enabling Division Peishkars to make references to the Civil Courts about awards made by them in land acquisition cases. Under the existing law, Peishkars can only refer the parties to the Civil Courts and it is open to the parties to go to Court or not as they like. The result is a good deal of delay in the grant of compensation. Under the British law, the Collector making the award is authorised to refer a disputed case to the Court direct. A Section corresponding to the above provision in the British Act is proposed to be added by the Bill.

Permission was granted accordingly.

## THE WEIGHTS AND MEASURES BILL.

Mr. Sankara Menon.—I beg permission to introduce a Bill to regulate Weights and Measures in Travancore. I think the subject came up in the early seventies, when the Abkari Regulation was under consideration. It was again before the Council when the Penal Code Bill was considered. A Bill itself was once introduced into the Council, but somehow or other it was dropped. The necessity for regulating weights and measures was also placed before Government at the last and the previous sessions of the Popular Assembly. I need not therefore expatiate upon the necessity for a Bill of the kind and I request that the Council may be pleased to grant me permission to introduce the Bill.

Permission was granted accordingly.

## THE PUBLIC GAMBLING REGULATION AMENDMENT BILL.

Mr. Ananda Row.—Sir, permission was granted to me at the last meeting of the Council to introduce a Bill to amend the Public Gambling Regulation, III of 1071. The Bill has been published in the Gazette and circulated among the Members. The Bill contains only a few minor amendments so as to enable the existing Regulation to work satisfactorily. Under the existing law, the burden of proof is heavily laid on the prosecution, which it finds difficult in most cases to discharge and the persons who have gambled get off without any punishment. I have therefore suggested the embodiment of a few Sections in the Regulation, which are more or less close adaptations of the British Act III of 1867. As regards the possible objection against throwing the onus of proof on the defence, I have only to say that the Regulation is a special law and in all special laws the burden *is* thrown on the defence. I beg, therefore, to introduce the Bill and to request that the principle of it may be affirmed.

Seconded by Mr. Vieyra.

Carried.

The Council having affirmed the principle of the Bill, Mr. Ananda Row proposed that the Bill be referred to a Select Committee consisting of Messrs. Vieyra, Sri Narayanan Tampi and the Mover, to report within one month.

The motion was put and agreed to.

## THE GOVERNMENT LAND CONSERVANCY REGULATION AMENDMENT BILL.

Mr. Ananda Row.—Sir, I beg to introduce the Bill to amend the Government Land Conservancy Regulation, II of 1067. As explained in the Statement of Objects and Reasons, one of the three objects of the Bill is to bring the Sripadom lands within the scope of the Regulation. At present, even if the ryots holding

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